

Proposal # 2001- <u>I206</u> (Office Use Only)

PSP Cover Sheet (Attach to the front of each proposal)Proposal Title: Master River Teacher ProgramApplicant Name: San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.Contact Name: Saundra PlettMailing Address: 1550 E. Shaw Avenue, Suite 114Telephone: (559) 248-8480Fax: (559) 248-8474Email: splett@riverparkway.org**Amount of funding requested:** \$ 128,049.00

Some entities charge different costs dependent on the source of the funds. If it is different for state or federal funds list below.

State cost _____

Federal cost _____

Cost share partners?____ Yes XX No

Identify partners and amount contributed by each _____

Indicate the Topic for which you are applying (check only one box).

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Flow Regimes | <input type="checkbox"/> Beyond the Riparian Corridor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonnative Invasive Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Watershed Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channel Dynamics/Sediment Transport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Status Species Surveys and Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Water Tidal/ Marsh Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishery Monitoring, Assessment and Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contaminants | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Screens |

What county or counties is the project located in? FresnoWhat **CALFED** ecozone is the project located in? See attached list and indicate number. Be as specific as possible 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14**Indicate the type of applicant (check only one box):**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Non-profit joint venture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government/district | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University | <input type="checkbox"/> Private party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

**Environmental Education
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Grant Request**

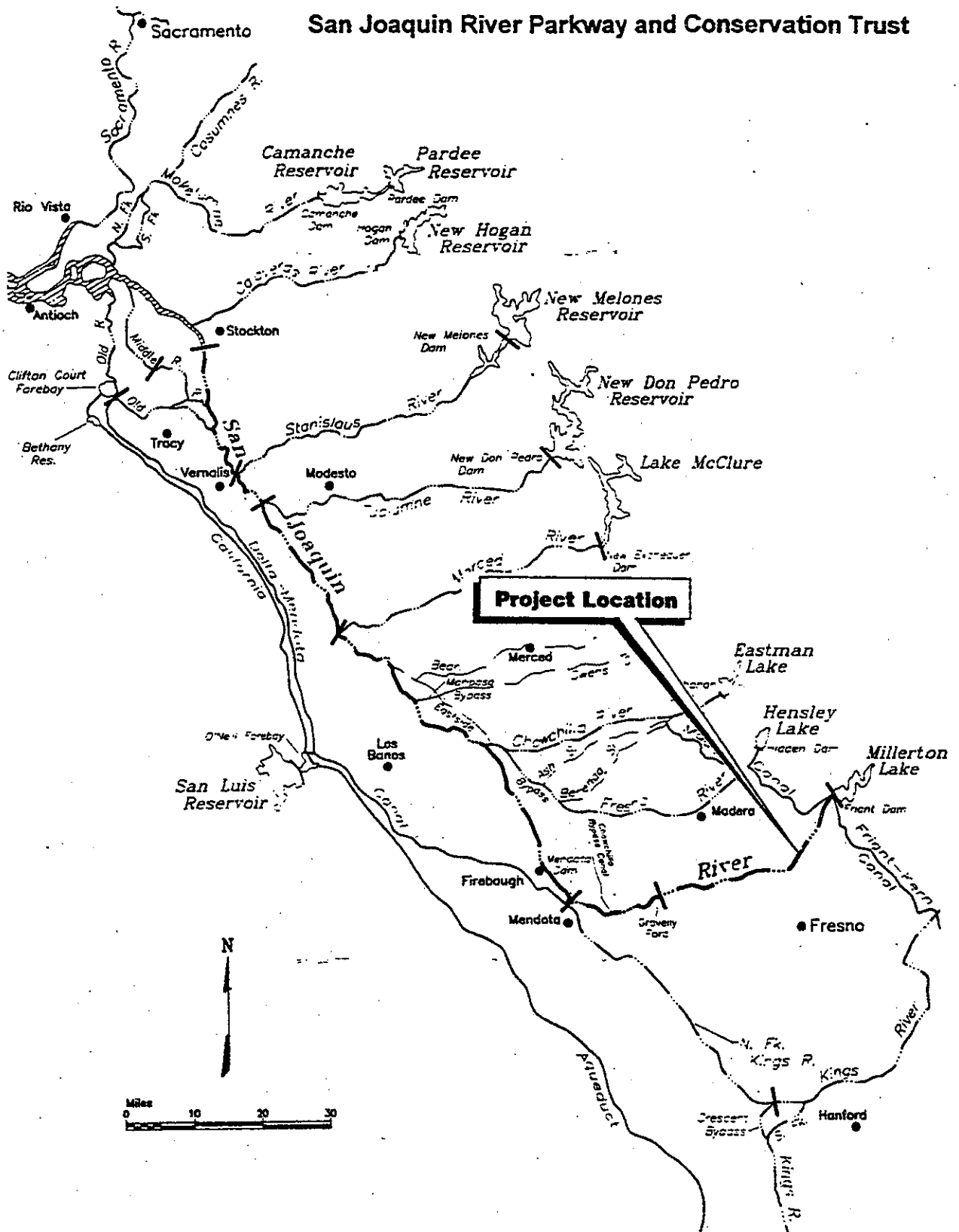
Master River Teacher Program



**an application submitted by the
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.**

**A California Non-Profit Corporation, 501(c)3
Federal Tax Identification No. 77-0196692
Saundra Plett, Education Director
email address: splett@riverparkway.org
1550 E. Shaw Avenue, Suite 114
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Phone (559)248-8480 & FAX (559)248-8474**

San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust



CALFED Bay-Delta Program Environmental Education Grant Request

Master River Teacher Program, \$128,049

Saundra Plett, Education Director

San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.

1550 E. Shaw Avenue, Suite 114, Fresno, CA 93710

Phone: (559) 248-8480 & Fax: (559) 248-8474

E-mail: splett@riverparkway.org

Executive Summary

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. (River Parkway Trust) is requesting \$128,049 to implement a multi-year Master River Teacher program based at Riverview Ranch House, an educational center specifically for San Joaquin River studies and research. The River Parkway Trust received a CALFED grant of \$68,415 in FY 1999 to develop the interpretive programs for Riverview Ranch House.

The proposal presents a project for next-phase funding to train Master River Teachers who will in turn teach other teachers and children about the San Joaquin River. The project will:

- Create a core group of teachers knowledgeable about natural resource issues of the San Joaquin River watershed, with a specific focus on the San Joaquin River Ecological Zone (ERP Volume II pp. 371-395). An integrated series of lectures and field experiences will provide in-depth instruction on natural riparian systems, water quality, water supply, ecosystem integrity, and impacts to the river from human activities. A system will be created for selecting teachers to train and support other teachers, both in their own school districts and in other districts throughout the watershed. Teachers participating in the program will be offered academic credit.
- Enhance the research capabilities of the Center and establish Riverview Ranch house as the place to go for researching river issues. Teachers in the program will use Riverview Ranch House as a meeting, study and research center to learn about the river and pursue a group research project related to the CALFED ERP goals that will form the basis for an annual River Symposium to be held in October. As the program develops, Riverview Ranch House will serve as a teacher resource center with readily available local watershed curricula, research materials and resource staff.

The River Parkway Trust is uniquely positioned to implement a Master River Teacher program. Nearly 11,000 children and adults in the Fresno-Madera region utilize our river education program each year. The education program enjoys strong support of all local school districts, as well as California State University, Fresno and the University of California.

Project Description

1. Statement of the Problem

The proposed project will develop a Master River Teachers program to be based at Riverview Ranch, an educational center specifically for San Joaquin River studies and research which fosters the goals and objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta program. The Riverview Ranch House, currently being restored, is an historic two-story house and property in the San Joaquin River bottom. The Center is a capital project of the River Parkway Trust and it is a facility identified in the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the Great Valley Center funded programs currently being developed for the Center in FY 1999. The interpretive programs identify and trace river conditions from the turn of the century, when the house was constructed, to the present, in order to allow full examination of the issues that will affect the future of this great river.

The success of the River Parkway Trust is due to the adherence of its programs to conservation, education and recreation. The education program, under the direction of Sandra Plett, brings nearly 11,000 pupils to the river annually for general outdoor education. To help teachers prepare for their field trips, the Trust offers a series of teacher training workshops each fall and spring. These workshops impart a very basic level of information about the natural environment and address river issues in a generic way. Feedback from participating teachers indicates a strong interest in having opportunity to gain a greater depth of knowledge about the San Joaquin River.

Conceptually, this project will create a core group of teachers knowledgeable about natural resource issues of the San Joaquin River watershed, with a specific focus on the mainstem, from its headwaters to the San Francisco Bay. Specialized training and field experiences will be provided to cover the subject of natural riparian systems, water quality, water supply, ecosystem integrity, and impacts to the river from human activities. The training will advance the goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program with a particular focus on the San Joaquin River Ecological Zone (ERP vol. II, pages 371-395). Teachers in the program will use Riverview Ranch House as a meeting, study and research center to learn about the river and pursue a group research project that will form the basis for an annual River Symposium to be held in October. A structured system will be created for selecting teachers to train and support other teachers both in their own school districts and in other districts throughout the watershed.

Our hypothesis is that the selected participants will impart knowledge from their experience at Riverview Ranch House to students *and* fellow teachers, who will in turn share their knowledge with peers. This phenomenon predicts a "ripple effect" with the information from and about Riverview programs spreading out to ever-increasing numbers of both students and teachers. The result will be increased utilization of the House and increased awareness of the river and CALFED ERP goals.

Over the course of nearly four years, 30 teachers in school districts within the San Joaquin River watershed will be trained as Master River Teachers. The first year will offer training for 10 high

school teachers, the second year 10 middle school teachers, and the third year 10 elementary school teachers. Classroom lecture and presentations from various agencies, organizations and educational institutions will be offered on pertinent subject matters. Field study will take place at several points along the river for first-hand observation and reinforcement of lectures and presentations. Each year the group will engage in a specific research project, selected by the group, related to CALFED ERP Goals. Academic credit will be offered for participation in the program.

Experienced educators on the River Parkway Trust staff will manage the project. The primary staff member will have responsibility for developing and implementing all education programs at Riverview Ranch, including school field trips, teacher education workshops, and an annual River Symposium. Over the last twelve years, staff has developed a strong network of working relationships with agencies and resource professionals that will assist in the development of this program. The River Parkway Trust has established relationships with educational institutions including local school districts, California State University, Fresno and the University of California. Members of our volunteer pool with professional expertise will also be assisting in project implementation.

2. Proposed Scope of Work

The project will be based in Fresno County, at Riverview Ranch House. Riverview Ranch House is located on the San Joaquin River approximately five miles downstream of Friant Dam. The historic ranch is comprised of a 3,200 square-foot two-story 1890 ranch house, a welcome center, a large historic dairy barn, outbuildings and 20 acres.

The program will include field trips to various locations along the mainstem of the San Joaquin River, which may include travel to the counties of Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Sacramento, Solano and Contra Costa.

The project provides for three years of teacher training. Each year the teachers involved in this program will produce a group research project on a subject related to the CALFED ERP Goals. During the course of their research, they will be aiding in the compilation of research materials that will be available and maintained at Riverview Ranch House. Further, in addition to publishing their findings, the research will be featured and presented each year at an annual River Symposium in October. All work products will be maintained at Riverview Ranch House.

The project will begin in February 2001 and continue through December 2004 as provided in task descriptions below:

Task 1: Program Development, Information Gathering, and Research. This task includes hiring an additional staff member to manage the program, gathering the information required, and undertaking the necessary research to develop the program. Primary information sources will include the CALFED Bay-Delta Program environmental documents and resources, studies and work products of CVPIA, San Joaquin River Management

Program, San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan, resources of the River Parkway Trust and others. A focus of program development will be placed on increasing the exposure of teachers and subsequently students of the vision for the San Joaquin Ecological Zone as outlined in the Bay-Delta program ERP, Vol.II, beginning on page 375. In this phase the program will be publicized and participants selected through an application process.

Task 2: Lectures and Field Study. Participants will attend a series of 10-15 lectures in Fresno on pertinent subject matter provided by experts in the field. Supporting agencies and organizations may include US Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Water Resources, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Friant Water Users Authority. The curriculum will include a series of 8-12 field trips to sites along the river that highlight the structure of the watershed, the variety of biotic communities, water diversion and hydroelectric projects, and other points of interest. Participants will travel to headwaters, tributaries, confluences, estuaries, the delta, dams, gravel mining sites, canal systems, ecological reserves, agricultural land, and urban development near waterways. Participants will learn the basics of biological assessment, become familiar with the variety of riparian flora and fauna, and observe first-hand how development has altered the natural system of the river.

Task 3: Research in a specific area related to CALFED ERP goals, with the aim of creating or adapting project-oriented curricular materials. This task requires that the participants focus on a study area selected by the group from the CALFED ERP goals including at-risk species, ecosystem processes and biotic communities, harvestable species, habitat, non-native invasive species, or sediment and water quality. The research will be translated into publishable activities, lessons, and community service projects to be utilized by interested teachers throughout the watershed area. Participants will also identify and compile existing educational curriculum related to the river environment and make recommendations for materials to be secured for the research library at Riverview Ranch.

Task 4: Conference Presentation and Master River Teacher Availability. The Master River Teachers will participate in an annual River Symposium and make the results of the yearlong study widely available through presentations. The first Annual River Symposium is planned for October 2000 sponsored by the River Parkway Trust and The California Department of Fish and Game. The funding of this grant request will be announced at this Symposium and thereafter be a central part of it. After completion of the program, Master River Teachers' names will be distributed as resource persons for other teachers with questions about river related research and classroom activities.

Task 5: Project Management. The Education Director of the River Parkway Trust will oversee the successful implementation of this project. The project will be directly managed by a new position (0.5 FTE) created with these grant funds. Project staff will administer evaluation surveys each year to program participants and symposium attendees to evaluate

the content and quality of the program. This will facilitate any adjustments deemed necessary in lectures, field trips and/or scheduling, and foster an environment supporting continual improvement of the program.

Schedule of Tasks

Feb 01 - April 01	Task 1: Program Development
April 01 - Mar 02	Tasks 2 and 3 for high school teachers: Lecture, Field Study, Research & Project Writing
April 02 - Oct 02	Tasks 3 (continued) and 4 for high school teachers: Research & Project Writing and Conference presentation
Nov 02 - Dec 02	High School program evaluation and teacher survey
April 02 - Mar 03	Tasks 2 and 3 for middle school teachers: Lecture, Field Study, Research & Project Writing
April 03 - Oct 03	Tasks 3 (continued) and 4 for middle school teachers: Research & Project Writing and Conference presentation
Nov 03 - Dec 03	Middle School program evaluation and teacher survey
April 03 - Mar 04	Tasks 2 and 3 for elementary school teachers: Lecture, Field Study, Research & Project Writing
April 04 - Oct 04	Tasks 3 (continued) and 4 for elementary school teachers: Research & Project Writing and Conference Presentation
Nov 04 - Dec 04	Elementary School program evaluation, teacher survey and overall evaluation

Feasibility

The restoration of Riverview Ranch House is well underway, and its interpretive programs and exhibits are under development. The prospective public opening date of the house is January 2001.

The River Parkway Trust is accomplishing the restoration and use of Riverview Ranch under license agreement with Vulcan Materials, Ltd., which currently owns the underlying fee title in the property. The River Parkway Trust holds an option to purchase the property and anticipates exercising it prior to December 2001. The license and option agreements were structured to enable the River Parkway Trust to restore and use the historic site while recognizing Vulcan's responsibility to conclude surrounding gravel operations and complete their reclamation obligation.

Using Riverview Ranch House as the "home base" for this project is contingent upon the approval of a Conditional Use Permit by Fresno County. The CUP is currently in process and a public hearing before the Fresno County Planning Commission is scheduled for Thursday, May 18. If unexpected permitting delays prevent the use of Riverview Ranch House for the beginning of this program, it is feasible that participants could meet at another location until the permit is approved.

Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA Priorities

1. Goals and CVPIA Priorities.

The Master River Teacher Program fulfills the Environmental Education goals of the CALFED ERP. The program will develop a broader understanding of natural resource conservation issues on the San Joaquin River through the research projects completed by the teachers and the annual River Symposium which will allow them to share their research with others.

2. Relationship to Other Ecosystem Restoration Projects.

Teachers involved in this project will study past and future restoration projects throughout the San Joaquin/Bay-Delta System, with the goal of educating both their students and other teachers about previously-funded projects including CALFED, CVPIA and other ecosystem restoration activities.

3. Requests for Next-Phase Funding.

This project is the next phase of the "Riverview Ranch Exhibits and Programs" Project funded by CALFED in FY1999-2000. The exhibits and programs are currently on-schedule to be completed by June 30, 2000. The interpretive programs will identify and trace river conditions from the turn of the century, when the house was constructed, to the present, in order to allow full examination of the issues that will affect the future of this great river. The programs focus on increasing public awareness of the vision for the San Joaquin River Ecological Zone as outlined in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program ERP, Vol. II, beginning on page 375.

Implementation of a Master River Teacher program at Riverview Ranch House will enhance the visibility and utility of the research library and educational resources available at the house. The project will provide teachers with in-depth instruction on the San Joaquin River ecological zone and promote broad dissemination of the river resource information. Master River Teachers trained through the program will impart knowledge from their experience at Riverview Ranch House to students *and* fellow teachers, who will in turn share the knowledge with peers. This phenomenon predicts a "ripple effect" with the information from and about Riverview programs spreading out to ever-increasing numbers of both students and teachers.

4. Previous Recipients of CALFED or CVPIA funding.

The River Parkway Trust received \$3.2 million CVPIA Restoration Funding for the acquisition and restoration of Jensen River Ranch. Jensen River Ranch is currently owned by the San Joaquin River Conservancy; the River Parkway Trust is working under contract to plan and implement a significant habitat restoration on the property using a portion of the CVPIA acquisition funds reserved for that purpose. There is a natural-surface river access trail on the property, which created the third public access point along this 22-mile reach of the river.

5. System-Wide Ecosystem Benefits

This project will increase public awareness of the CALFED Bay-Delta program with a primary focus on the goals and actions identified in the ERP, Vol. II, pages 371-395 (the San Joaquin River). Riverview Ranch and the grant project have the following relationship to other projects:

- The Riverview Ranch river studies center is a facility identified in the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan, an adopted Plan and EIR of the Resource Agency's San Joaquin River Conservancy. The Parkway Plan envisions a greenway of approximately 6,000 acres of protected lands between Friant Dam and Highway 99; approximately 3,200 acres of land are now in public ownership. The City of Fresno, County of Fresno and County of Madera support the San Joaquin River Parkway. Rank Island, a 270-acre unit of the Parkway's ecological reserve is less than a half-mile from Riverview Ranch and connected by public easement.
- The San Joaquin River Parkway Plan is a recommended action listed in the San Joaquin River Management Plan, produced by the California Resources Agency.
- CVPIA funding provided for the acquisition of Jensen River Ranch, a 167-acre riparian property located approximately three miles downstream of Riverview Ranch.
- San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program has produced key information sources for portions of the grant project. Publications to be used are the *Historical Riparian Habitat Conditions of the San Joaquin River* and *Analysis of Physical Processes and Riparian Habitat Potential of the San Joaquin River*.

In addition to fostering goals and objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta program, the grant project will have the direct effect of furthering the objectives of the following organizations:

San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.
San Joaquin River Conservancy
Fresno Unified School District
Fresno County Office of Education
Tulare County Office of Education
California State University, Fresno
Fresno Pacific University
University of California

The project will provide a significant addition to Riverview Ranch that will have educational and economic benefits in addition to the intangible benefits of improving the community's quality of life.

Staff Qualifications

The following staff members of the River Parkway Trust will be the principle individuals responsible for implementing the project:

Saundra Plett

Education Director

Project Role: Selection of the program director and assistance in program implementation.

Saundra Plett serves as the Education Director for the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust. Her duties include the management and development of an outdoors and in-class environmental education program that serves more than 11,000 local school children annually. In addition, she is responsible for recruiting and training docents to lead these programs and works with Fresno Unified School District to provide life science in-service training for K-12 teachers centering around the ecology of the river. Before this position Saundra was for 15 years the owner and head teacher for a Montessori pre-school/Kindergarten, which featured an emphasis on natural sciences and environmental experiences for the students. Saundra has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fresno Pacific College and a Master of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from California State University, Fresno, where she serves as adjunct faculty in the school of Child and Family Sciences. She is an active member in the Central California Science Education Leadership Association and local community improvement projects.

Dave Koehler

Executive Director

Project Role: Assistance in project development and administration

Dave Koehler is the Executive Director of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc., and has served in that position since 1990. During this period, he has facilitated the River Parkway Trust's efforts to establish a 22-mile greenbelt including the organization's land acquisitions and major programs. Dave has formed key partnerships with public agencies, the Trust For Public Land, American Farmland Trust and participates as a member of the Northern California Land Trust Council. Prior to joining the River Parkway Trust, he was an officer of Guarantee Financial Corporation and FiServ, Inc., where he managed information systems for several years. He is an environmental biology graduate of California State University at Fresno and worked for several seasons in the U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Forestry. He is a past-president of the Fresno Audubon Society and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Great Valley Center. His community involvement also includes serving as a member of the City of Fresno General Plan Update Committee 1992-1997, Leadership Fresno, East Fresno Rotary, and Valley Public Radio Advisory Board. A native of the Valley, Dave has a long-term commitment to preserving the area's cherished lands.

Qualifications of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. (River Parkway Trust) is a 501(c)3 California non-profit corporation founded in 1988. It is comprised of a 25-member Board of Directors, 12 full-time staff members and more than 4,000 contributors. In 1999, more than 650 individuals volunteered for the River Parkway Trust to further its education, restoration and community outreach activities. Board Members have expertise in variety of fields, including environmental planning, biology, agriculture, politics, history, law and education.

The mission of the River Parkway Trust is *"to preserve and restore San Joaquin River Lands having ecological, scenic or historic significance, to educate the public on the need for stewardship, to research issues affecting the river, and to promote educational, recreational, and agricultural uses consistent with the protection of the river's resources."*

The River Parkway Trust has significant experience managing major projects, such as:

- Natural Resource Land Acquisitions for the San Joaquin River Parkway (Rank Island, Wildwood, Camp Pashayan, Jensen River Ranch, Hansen Farm)
- Multi-purpose Trail Design and Construction (multiple sections of trail totaling five miles have been completed through agreements with the County of Fresno and City of Fresno)
- Implementation of the only Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation Programs of their kind along the San Joaquin River

Master River Teacher Education Program Total Project Budget

	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary & Benefits	Service Contracts	Mat'l Acq. Costs	Misc. & Other Costs	Overhead/Indirect Costs	Total Costs
Task 1 Teacher Curriculum Development	520	8505	3000	5000	6000	1275	23780
Task 2 Lectures & field trips	2500	41000	0	2000	15000	6150	64150
Task 3 Student Research	780	12800	9000			1920	23720
Task 4 Conference	360	5890				884	6774
Task 5 Project Management	512	8370				1255	9625
TOTALS	4672	76565	12000	7000	21000	11484	128049

This table provides a cost breakdown of the project tasks and schedule listed in the "Project Description" section of this grant application.

"Direct Labor Hours" and "Direct Salary & Benefit" are for River Parkway Trust staff costs for project implementation and management costs.

"Overhead" was calculated at 15% of the "Direct Salary & Benefit" rate.

"Service contracts" will be awarded for printing services required to publicize the program and produce student research products.

"Material Acquisition Costs" will cover office, desk & computer supplies, research materials & field trip supplies (e.g. binoculars, maps, etc.).

"Miscellaneous and Other Costs" are to cover travel costs (mileage, food and lodging) for participants on field trips.

Master River Teacher Education Program Quarterly Budget

2001

Task	Jan-Mar '01	Apr-Jun '01	Jul-Sep '01	Oct-Dec '01	Subtotal
1	\$ 8,270.00	\$ 3,610.00			\$ 11,880
2		6,170.00	5,180.00	5,180.00	\$ 16,530
3					
4					
5	602.00	602.00	602.00	601.00	\$ 2,407
2001 costs	\$ 8,872.00	\$ 10,382.00	\$ 5,782.00	\$ 5,781.00	\$ 30,817.00

2002

Task	Jan-Mar '02	Apr-Jun'02	Jul-Sep'02	Oct-Dec'02	Subtotal
1	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 2,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
2	5,680.00	5,180.00	5,180.00	5,180.00	21,220.00
3		1,954.00	5,953.00		7,907.00
4			1,129.00	1,129.00	2,258.00
5	602.00	601.00	602.00	601.00	2,406.00
2002 costs	\$ 7,282.00	\$ 7,735.00	\$ 12,864.00	\$ 9,510.00	\$ 37,391.00

2003

Task	Jan-Mar'03	Apr-Jun'03	Jul-Sep'03	Oct-Dec'03	Subtotal
1	\$ 2,600.00			\$ 1,600.00	\$ 4,200.00
2	5,680.00	5,180.00	5,180.00	5,180.00	21,220.00
3		1,954.00	5,953.00		7,907.00
4			1,129.00	1,129.00	2,258.00
5	602.00	601.00	602.00	601.00	2,406.00
2003 costs	\$ 8,882.00	\$ 7,735.00	\$ 12,864.00	\$ 8,510.00	\$ 37,991.00

2004

Task	Jan-Mar'04	Apr-Jun'04	Jul-Sep'04	Oct-Dec'04	Subtotal
1	\$ 2,600.00			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,100.00
2	5,180.00				5,180.00
3		1,953.00	5,953.00		7,906.00
4			1,129.00	1,129.00	2,258.00
5	602.00	601.00	602.00	601.00	2,406.00
2004 costs	\$ 8,382.00	\$ 2,554.00	\$ 7,684.00	\$ 3,230.00	\$ 21,850.00

FULL PROJECT COST

TASK	
1	\$ 23,780.00
2	64,150.00
3	23,720.00
4	6,774.00
5	9,625.00
TOTAL	\$ 128,049.00

Cost-Sharing

A variety of individuals, private foundations, service organizations, and government agencies are contributing to the restoration and program development of Riverview Ranch House. The CALFED program will fund the first three years of the Master River Teacher Program; continued funding of the program will be sought, leveraging the CALFED funding as seed money for the continued implementation of the program.

California State University, Fresno, Fresno Pacific University and the University of California are expected to provide academic credit to teachers that participate in the program. Participants will be responsible for paying any necessary academic fees.

Local Involvement

The following organizations are supporting this project application (support letters attached):

Fresno County Office of Education
Tulare County Office of Education
California State University, Fresno
University of California

Other groups helping the River Parkway Trust with the restoration and program planning of Riverview Ranch include:

- East Fresno Rotary – the club has adopted restoration of the house as a two-year community service project. The club is donating \$50,000 and most of the professional services needed to restore the historic ranch house. Rotary and River Parkway Trust volunteers have completed more than twenty work days at the site over the past six months.
- Planning Advisory Group – natural resource professionals, educators, landowners, Native American representatives, historians, and museum representatives are assisting in the development of the program plan for Riverview Ranch.

The River Parkway Trust also works closely with the following groups and agencies:

San Joaquin River Conservancy	City of Fresno
The Trust for Public Land	County of Fresno
American Farmland Trust	County of Madera
Great Valley Center	California Department of Fish and Game
California Wildlife Conservation Board	Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

The County of Fresno is aware of the restoration of Riverview Ranch House and is currently processing the CUP for the property.

Threshold Requirements and Other Attachments

1. Local Government Notification Exemption Letter
2. Environmental Compliance Checklist
3. Land Use Checklist
4. Forms certifying Compliance with Standard Terms and Conditions
5. Summary of Existing Project Status
6. Letters of Support
 - a. Joseph I. Castro, University of California
 - b. David Grubbs, Ph.D., California State University, Fresno
 - c. Joseph Jimenez, Tulare County Office of Education
 - d. Dr. Peter G. Mehas, Fresno County Office of Education

*"Preserving the San Joaquin River"
for all the Valley's People"*

**San Joaquin River
Parkway and
Conservation Trust, Inc.**

May 12, 2000

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Education

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sir or Madam:

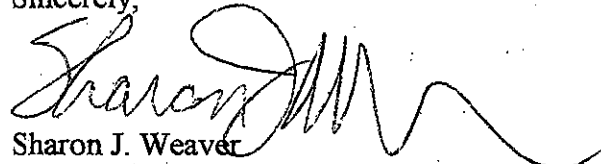
This letter is to inform you that our proposed Environmental Education project does not include any physical action on the ground, and is therefore exempt from the local notification requirement.

The project will be based at Riverview Ranch House, but is not part of the restoration effort. The County of Fresno is currently processing the CUP for the property.

Per the 2001 PSP guidelines, page 50, "Projects that do not include any physical action on the ground (e.g. research conducted solely in a laboratory) are not subject to this requirement."

Please call me at (559) 248-8480 if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Sharon J. Weaver
Land Programs Analyst

Environmental Compliance Checklist

All applicants must fill out this Environmental Compliance Checklist. Applications must contain answers to the following questions to be responsive and to be considered for funding. Failure to answer these questions and include them with the application will result in the application being considered nonresponsive and not considered for funding.

1. Do any of the actions included in the proposal require compliance with either the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), or both?

YES

NO

- 2. If you answered yes to # 1, identify the lead governmental agency for CEQA/NEPA compliance.**

Lead Agency

- 3. If you answered no to # 1, explain why CEQA/NEPA compliance is not required for the actions in the proposal.**

- 4. If CEQA/NEPA compliance is required, describe how the project will comply with either or both of these laws. Describe where the project is in the compliance process and the expected date of completion.**

5. Will the applicant require access across public or private property that the applicant does not own to accomplish the activities in the proposal?

YES

NO

Field locations are yet to be determined

If yes, the applicant must attach written permission for access from the relevant property owner(s). Failure to include written permission for access may result in disqualification of the proposal during the review process. Research and monitoring field projects for which specific field locations have not been identified will be required to provide access needs and permission for access with 30 days of notification of approval.

Land Use Checklist

All applicants must fill out this Land Use Checklist for their proposal. Applications must contain answers to the following questions to be responsive and to be considered for funding. Failure to answer these questions and include them with the application will result in the application being considered nonresponsive and not considered for funding.

1. Do the actions in the proposal involve physical changes to the land (i.e. grading, planting vegetation, or breaching levees) or restrictions in land use (i.e. conservation easement or placement of land in a wildlife refuge)?

YES

X

NO

2. If NO to # 1, explain what type of actions are involved in the proposal (i.e., research only, planning only).

Environmental Education, teacher training

3. If YES to # 1, what is the proposed land use change or restriction under the proposal?

4. If YES to # 1, is the land currently under a Williamson Act contract?

YES

NO

5. If YES to # 1, answer the following:

Current land use _____

Current zoning _____

Current general plan designation _____

6. If YES to #1, is the land classified as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland on the Department of Conservation Important Farmland Maps?

YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

7. If YES to # 1, how many acres of land will be subject to physical change or land use restrictions under the proposal?

8. If YES to # 1, is the property currently being commercially farmed or grazed?

YES

NO

9. If YES to #8, what are

the number of employees/acre _____

the total number of employees _____

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

STD. 19 (REV. 3-95) FMC

COMPANY NAME

San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

OFFICIAL'S NAME

Dave Koehler

DATE EXECUTED

May 8, 2000

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

Fresno

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

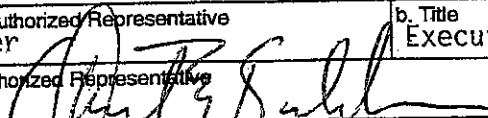
APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

OMB Approval No. 0348-0043

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		2. DATE SUBMITTED May 15, 2000	Applicant Identifier
		3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Application Identifier
		4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier

5. APPLICANT INFORMATION Legal Name: San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust, Inc. Address (give city, county, State, and zip code): 1550 E. Shaw Avenue, Suite 114 Fresno, (Fresno) CA 93710		Organizational Unit Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code) Sandra Plett (559) 248-8480														
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 77-0196692	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box) <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> A. State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> H. Independent School Dist.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> B. County</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> C. Municipal</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> J. Private University</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> D. Township</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> K. Indian Tribe</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> E. Interstate</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> L. Individual</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> F. Intermunicipal</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> M. Profit Organization</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> G. Special District</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> N. Other (Specify) <u>Non-profit</u></td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> A. State	<input type="checkbox"/> H. Independent School Dist.	<input type="checkbox"/> B. County	<input type="checkbox"/> I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning	<input type="checkbox"/> C. Municipal	<input type="checkbox"/> J. Private University	<input type="checkbox"/> D. Township	<input type="checkbox"/> K. Indian Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> E. Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> L. Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> F. Intermunicipal	<input type="checkbox"/> M. Profit Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> G. Special District	<input type="checkbox"/> N. Other (Specify) <u>Non-profit</u>
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<input type="checkbox"/> G. Special District	<input type="checkbox"/> N. Other (Specify) <u>Non-profit</u>															
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration Other(specify):																
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: TITLE:		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM														
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): County of Fresno		11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Master River Teacher Program														

13. PROPOSED PROJECT Start Date Ending Date Jan 2001 Dec 2004	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF: a. Applicant Radanovich (19), Dooley (20)																													
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td>a. Federal</td> <td>\$</td> <td>30,817</td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Applicant</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. State</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Local</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. Other</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f. Program Income</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g. TOTAL</td> <td>\$</td> <td>30,817</td> <td>00</td> </tr> </table>			a. Federal	\$	30,817	00	b. Applicant	\$		00	c. State	\$		00	d. Local	\$		00	e. Other	\$		00	f. Program Income	\$		00	g. TOTAL	\$	30,817	00
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d. Local	\$		00																											
e. Other	\$		00																											
f. Program Income	\$		00																											
g. TOTAL	\$	30,817	00																											
16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS? a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE _____ b. No. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW																														
17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No																														

18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.		
a. Type Name of Authorized Representative Dave Koehler	b. Title Executive Director	c. Telephone Number (559) 248-8480
d. Signature of Authorized Representative 		e. Date Signed May 8, 2000

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

U.S. Department of the Interior

**Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and
Other Responsibility Matters, Drug-Free Workplace
Requirements and Lobbying**

Persons signing this form should refer to the regulations referenced below for complete instructions:

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions - The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transaction," provided by the department or agency entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions. See below for language to be used; use this form for certification and sign; or use Department of the Interior Form 1954 (DI-1954). (See Appendix A of Subpart D of 43 CFR Part 12.)

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions - (See Appendix B of Subpart D of 43 CFR Part 12.)

Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements - Alternate I. (Grantees Other Than Individuals) and Alternate II. (Grantees Who are Individuals) - (See Appendix C of Subpart D of 43 CFR Part 12.)

Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 43 CFR Parts 12 and 18. The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of the Interior determines to award the covered transaction, grant, cooperative agreement or loan.

**PART A: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters -
Primary Covered Transactions**

CHECK ☐ IF THIS CERTIFICATION IS FOR A PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTION AND IS APPLICABLE.

- (1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
- (a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - (b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and
 - (d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

**PART B: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion -
Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

CHECK ☐ IF THIS CERTIFICATION IS FOR A LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTION AND IS APPLICABLE.

- (1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

PART E: Certification Regarding Lobbying
Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

CHECK ☐ IF CERTIFICATION IS FOR THE AWARD OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AND THE AMOUNT EXCEEDS \$100,000: A FEDERAL GRANT OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, SUBCONTRACT, OR SUBGRANT UNDER THE GRANT OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.

CHECK ☐ IF CERTIFICATION IS FOR THE AWARD OF A FEDERAL LOAN EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000, OR A SUBGRANT OR SUBCONTRACT EXCEEDING \$100,000, UNDER THE LOAN.

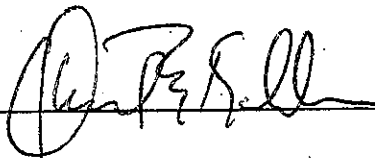
The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, and officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

As the authorized certifying official, I hereby certify that the above specified certifications are true.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL



TYPED NAME AND TITLE

Dave Koehler, Executive Director

DATE

May 8, 2000

Summary of Existing Project Status
River Studies Center Exhibits and Programs
CALFED Action #99-B25, USBR #00FC200006

Project Description

The River Studies Center Exhibits and Programs project develops environmental education exhibits for Riverview Ranch House, also known as the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies, which foster the goals and objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Interpretive exhibits developed by this grant examine the natural resource issues of the San Joaquin River's main stem from its headwaters to the San Francisco Bay. The project focuses on the context of Riverview Ranch within the overall ecosystem. The historic ranch provides an excellent setting to provide environmental education programs to increase awareness of the River's important role in the Valley's changing landscape.

The exhibits developed by this project help identify river conditions at the turn of the century (when Riverview Ranch was built), compare them with conditions today, and examine projections for the future. This approach increases the public's understanding of the resource issues that led to the development of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Project Status

The River Parkway Trust received a fully-executed copy of the CALFED contract on January 7, 2000. Project staff have been diligently working to meet the project schedule provided in the contract, as is our contractor who will be producing the videos and displays.

In the cost-share section of the contract, the US Bureau of Reclamation requested to remain apprised of our fundraising efforts for Riverview Ranch House. The River Parkway Trust has initiated a 3-year capital campaign to raise the necessary funds. The project total is now estimated to be \$1.6 million, of which 43% has been raised in the first year of the campaign in the form of grants, pledges and donations of cash, materials and services. The contribution of the CALFED grant now represents slightly more than 4% of the overall costs for the center.

With respect to monitoring, the timing for completion of the center has been officially moved back to December 2000 due to a delay in Fresno County's processing of the required Conditional Use Permit and site plan review for the facility. Realistically, the opening date may not be until Spring 2001. Since our contract specifies monitoring the effectiveness of the programs in the house by December 2000, we are exploring other forms of monitoring that might be appropriate and acceptable to CALFED in order to stay on schedule. The videos, displays and exhibits produced will be invaluable resources that could be presented this year in public forums and teacher training sessions, which would allow alternate opportunities for evaluation before the house is complete.

Although we are too early in our work to have "hard" products to show, our contractor has produced several uncut videos, parts of which will make up the final video as described in the grant contract. There is an ever-growing interest within the community about the project and the next few months should prove exciting as our research is transformed into audio-visual and tangible elements.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CENTER, FRESNO
550 E. SHAW AVENUE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93710-7702
Ph. (559) 241-7120
Fax (559) 241-7138

May 9, 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the University of California, Merced and the University of California Center in Fresno, I am pleased to support the Master River Teacher Project proposed by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

The River Parkway Trust is a dynamic force for change in our community, working to preserve and protect the San Joaquin River. The education programs it offers reach thousands of students and teachers each year with first hand observation and study of this natural resource, and contributes greatly to the quality of local, vital science education in our schools. We are pleased to be a partner with the River Parkway Trust in expanding professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers in the Central Valley.

We believe that a Master River Teacher program will provide a foundation for the development of programs and student interest, encouraging more Valley students to pursue environmental science and other related areas. UC Merced is scheduled to open in Fall 2004 and one of its major areas of focus will be environmental studies. Through our Sierra Nevada Research Institute, the campus will provide a wide range of programs that enable students to continue studying local watershed issues.

I applaud the efforts of the River Parkway Trust in the development of this program and recommend it for approval. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please call me at (559) 241-7405.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Castro
Director of Academic Programs
University of California, Merced



CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

10 May 2000

CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
FRESNO
—

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to lend my enthusiastic support for the application by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (The Trust) to establish a Master River Teacher program in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

The project to train public school teachers in natural science and in the social, economic and political issues that tangle conservation is particularly timely here. We face the conversion of prime agricultural land to suburban landscape, struggle with preserving local biodiversity and the restoration of habitat long ago lost to further economic ends. Understanding local ecological theaters, the costs and compromises involved, and the basis for mitigation can be furthered a great deal by better science education that this application addresses.

The Trust brings multiple assets to bear on these important regional problems. The Trust has an exceptional record of providing quality educational opportunities here in the valley. River conferences have brought scientists, educators, politicians, economists, and managers of public agencies together on many occasions to better understand the problems and solutions here. Its docents train several thousand elementary students (and their teachers) in riparian ecology each year. Most recently the Trust has become a partner in a National Science Foundation program to develop a cluster of courses to satisfy general education requirements in science, math, politics and economics of CSU Fresno students. The Trust has established valuable relationships with local, regional and national players who can contribute to this effort. These include the Endangered Species Recovery Program. The Bureau of Reclamation, irrigation districts, The Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Water Resources, the University of California, and The Trust for Public Land, to name just a few. The Riverview Ranch House, now the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies, has been restored to provide an ideal venue for educational and public programs just like this.

I urge your support for the application and look forward to participating in the program directly.

Sincerely yours,

David Grubbs Ph.D.
David Grubbs,
Professor of Biology

School of Natural Sciences
Department of Biology

2555 East San Ramon Ave. M/S 73
Fresno, CA 93740-8034

209. 278-2001
Fax 209. 278-3963

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Tulare County
Office of Education
Support and Service

MAY 18 2000

Thursday, May 18, 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814


To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the Master River Teacher program sponsored by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

We have worked together with the River Parkway Trust in the context of a the Central California Science Leaders Association and have found our association valuable. The education programs offered by the River Parkway Trust are of the highest quality and we look forward to the development of this new program which will broaden the scope of service for teachers and students alike.

The expertise created in this Master River Teacher program would be of great benefit to the teachers in Tulare County as we continue to develop programs of local importance, and it has our full support.

Sincerely,


Joseph Jimenez
Instructional Consultant, Science
Tulare County Office of Education





Dr. Peter G. Mehas
Superintendent

fresno county office of education

MAY 10 2000

May 9, 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office of Superintendent
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

To Whom It May Concern:

The EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF THE River Parkway Trust have provided thousands of Fresno County school children with outstanding educational opportunities concerning the San Joaquin River each year. I am therefore pleased to offer my support for the new level of teacher training created in the Master River Teacher proposal.

Partnerships between schools and community organizations are essential in providing our children with the best quality of service. I believe the River Parkway Trust is well suited to extend the knowledge of the river and the issues surrounding it to our community through our schools.

The River Parkway Trust will have the cooperation of the Fresno County Office of Education in the design and implementation of this meritorious proposal as a welcome addition to our teacher-training program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter G. Mehas
Superintendent

cen